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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Science and
Education

Washington, D.C.
20250

MAY 28 '87
CURRENT GENERAL RECORDS

November 23, 1981
No. 22

Conference Action on FY 82 Budget

House and Senate Conferees reported on the Appropriation Bill for Agriculture and Related Agencies on November 4. The Science and Education agencies were authorized budget authority for FY 1982 as follows: Agricultural Research Service received \$441,410,000, plus \$8,596,000 for Human Nutrition facility construction at Tufts University, and Grand Forks, N.D., and for relocating the Cattle Fever Research Facility from Falcolm Heights, Texas, to Mission, Texas. Cooperative State Research Service was authorized \$225,548,000, which includes funds for animal health research. Extension Service was authorized a total of \$320,702,000, which included funding to initiate the Renewable Resources Extension Act and a non-point pollution program. Authorization for Bankhead-Jones Act support for resident teaching was not approved in the 1982 Conference action. The National Agricultural Library was authorized \$8,750,000.

These totals represent an increase of 7.2% over FY 1981 levels. The FY 1982 funding levels are \$111 million over the President's revised budget recommendations of last September.

The final funding levels are still unknown. Full House and Senate action is required on the Conference numbers. Regardless of the funding levels signed into law for FY 1982, we must continue to work together as cooperators to find economies in our budgets.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
Comparison of Funding Levels
(in thousands of dollars)

	1981 Appropriation	1982 March Budget	1982 Sept. Budget	1982 Confer. Actions	Inc/Dec over FY '81	Inc/Dec over FY '82 Sept. Budg	% over FY '81
ARS.....	\$426,831	\$ 456,569	\$401,781	\$ 444,410	+17,579	+\$42,629	+ 4.1%
(Bldg. & Facilities).	--	1,900	1,672	8,596	+ 8,596	+ 6,924	--
CSRS.....	200,897	234,188	206,085	225,548	+24,651	+19,463	+12.3%
ES.....	292,269	317,378	279,293	320,702	+28,433	+41,409	+ 9.7%
(Bankhead-Jones)	11,500	--	--	--	-11,500	--	--
NAL.....	8,822	9,271	8,158	8,750	-72	+592	- .8%
Total, S&E	\$940,319	1,019,306	896,989	1,008,006	+67,687	+111,017	+ 7.2%

Farm Bill Progress

At this writing, House and Senate conferees were still working out differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the 1981 Farm Bill. However, they had agreed on the portions of the bill which extend and reauthorize the major programs of Title XIV for research, extension, and teaching, and make some adjustments in their provisions.

I believe that the new farm bill will strengthen and clarify the food and agriculture research and education partnership and provide the basis for closer cooperation and coordination.

The bill authorizes new programs in aquaculture and rangeland research. Other provisions include more producer representation on the Users Advisory Board, more land grant membership for the Joint Council, a requirement that at least 25 percent of agricultural research funds be channeled through Hatch Act funding, a prohibition against charging indirect costs against most formula funds and a requirement that the Secretary prepare a long-term assessment of needs for food, fiber, and forest products and a long-range plan for research to meet those needs.

In addition, Title XIV authorizes an additional USDA Assistant Secretary whose responsibility will be to carry out the provisions of Title XIV.

NASULGC Meeting

The recent meeting of the National Association of State University and Land-Grant Colleges here gave me an excellent opportunity to meet with Deans of Agriculture, Directors of Resident Instruction, and Extension and Experiment Station Directors. We discussed a number of issues of common concern, including Title XIV of the 1981 Farm Bill. Keith Shea, Associate Deputy Chief for Research, Forest Service, discussed a proposal for developing the needs assessment called for in the Farm Bill. The proposal was drafted by a USDA Task Force which is seeking inputs from all groups participating in science and education programs.

Other highlights of the meeting, for me, included remarks by Senator David L. Boren (Okla.) who called for more emphasis on education on the national scene, and the second annual Seaman Knapp Memorial Lecture, given by D. Gale Johnson, chairman of the department of economics at the University of Chicago. Speaking on the subject of productivity, Dr. Johnson pointed out that "United States agriculture must depend on a supportive economic and political environment if it is to maintain its record of low-cost, high-yield efficiency." He said, "our national research policy should encompass both the public and the private sectors."

Oversight Hearings

Members of Congressman George Brown's staff met with the Extension Directors during the NASULGC meeting to discuss the oversight hearings on extension that the House Oversight Committee chaired by Congressman Brown will be holding soon. A rough outline of the issue areas to be considered in the hearings was distributed to the Directors. Their comments are needed by December 15.

The Congressman's representatives emphasized that the Committee members have no preconceived notions and no legislative changes in mind, but want to provide a useful forum in Congress where issues can be brought up and discussed by all parties. The outline distributed at the meeting is also being sent to others with a cover letter seeking as wide an input as possible.

Some quotes from the draft paper:

"The need for this oversight results partially from the fact that the CES has not had any formal Congressional oversight of its entire operation since its establishment in 1914 by the Smith-Lever Act It is a tribute to the CES that it has functioned well over the last six decades and had not required a great deal of Congressional guidance The primary focus and purpose of the . . . oversight will be to identify, research, and clarify significant issues relating to the current and future operations of the CES. The objective of this focus will be to establish, from the Congressional viewpoint, the broad boundaries of an organizational mission for the CES in the last decades of the twentieth century The oversight function will be accomplished with the guidance of the federal, state, and local partners in the CES. Guidance will be sought as well from users of the CES and interested organizations and individuals."

Vanden Berg is Acting Associate S&E Director

Glen Vanden Berg, Associate Administrator for the Northeastern Region, has joined my office on a 120-day detail as Acting Associate Director of Science and Education. Dr. Vanden Berg previously was at the National Tillage Machinery Laboratory in Auburn, Ala., and had served as Associate Director of Agricultural Engineering Research. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University and received his B.S. degree from South Dakota State University. He is a native of South Dakota.

Denzil Clegg Named Extension Service Associate Administrator

We welcome Denzil O. Clegg as the Associate Administrator of USDA's Extension Service. Dr. Clegg had been Associate Director, Texas Agricultural Extension Service since 1978. He was Regional Director of the Illinois Extension Service before joining the staff in Texas, and has experience with the Extension Service in Colorado and Nebraska. A native of Nebraska, he received his B.S. in general agriculture from the University of Nebraska, his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Extension Administration from the University of Wisconsin.

Publication Reviews

Since June, the S&E agencies have been engaged in reviews of pamphlets, periodicals, and audiovisual products, to assure that only those essential to the accomplishment of agency missions are produced, and to determine where savings could be effected. The initial effort was in response to the President's directive to eliminate wasteful spending on government pamphlets, periodicals, and audiovisual products, as detailed in a bulletin issued by the Office of Management and Budget. The first report required by OMB dealt with costs of these products in FY 1980, 1981, and 1982; reductions in costs for FY 1981 and 1982 were obtained by eliminating products or reducing copies to a minimum. A second report to OMB, due this month, requires an inventory of all existing periodicals and recurring pamphlets, and details of the costs involved.

Meanwhile, Assistant Deputy Secretary Richard Douglas has been charged with the responsibility for setting up a Task Force to review all departmental publications, periodicals, and audiovisual products, whether for public distribution or internal use. Glen Vanden Berg represents S&E on this Task Force.

The program and information staff members working on these reviews are striving to find innovative ways to provide essential information at the least cost possible.

Comments Requested on RCA "Preferred Program"

Comments are sought until January 15 on a proposed program for future soil and water conservation activities in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture, in response to the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (RCA), on October 28 proposed a "preferred program" based on an appraisal of resource conditions and an analysis of current conservation programs and trends affecting resource use. Copies are available at all SCS and ASCS field office.

The preferred program establishes clear national priorities for addressing problems associated with soil, water, and related resources during the next 5 years. The highest national priority is reducing soil erosion to maintain long-term productivity on agricultural land. Other priority items include reducing upstream flood damages; improving water quality, water conservation and supply management, and community-related conservation problems; and improving fish and wildlife habitat and organic waste management.

The program calls for an expanded role for local and State governments in developing and implementing soil and water conservation programs. It provides for Federal matching block grants to States, to be obtained by reducing Federal conservation program funds. It calls for targeting a greater share of USDA conservation program funds and people to critical soil erosion areas and puts more emphasis on conservation tillage and other cost-effective measures for reducing soil erosion. The program calls for more emphasis on technical and financial assistance to farmers who plan to install needed, cost-effective conservation systems and requires that land owners have a conservation plan to be eligible for Farmers Home Administration loans.

USDA's Science and Education agencies are developing a program in support of RCA. The National Soil Erosion-Soil Productivity Research Planning Committee, an interdepartmental group, and scientists from various USDA agencies met in September to develop both short-and long-term plans for responding to RCA. We plan to utilize all the tools at our disposal, striving for greater coordination in developing the needed technology and, through Extension, gaining acceptance by farmers.

High Interest Continues in Acid Precipitation

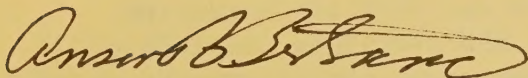
Continuing bilateral discussions with the Canadians are keeping acid precipitation in the news. The Joint U.S.-Canadian Coordinating Committee for a transboundary air pollution agreement met in Ottawa November 6 to assess our current state of knowledge and to plan negotiations for an agreement. It was agreed that U.S. and Canadian research efforts should be coordinated and linked as appropriate. Clare Harris, deputy administrator of USDA's Cooperative State Research Service represented the USDA.

The U.S. Interagency Task Force, on which I serve as one of three co-chairpersons, is moving ahead with a national plan for research which will be formally documented in a report to the Congress after the first of the year. Meetings with a similar task force in Canada will be sought.

The thrust of the Science and Education effort is with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in a cooperative program known as the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). Initial emphasis has been on establishing a network of sampling sites across the U.S. to provide data for analysis of trends in the amount and distribution of acid deposition. Samples from approximately 90 sites are being analyzed weekly at a central laboratory in Illinois. The State Agricultural Experiment Stations are also conducting research on the impact of acid deposition on agricultural crops and soils.

New Office of Rural Development Policy Established

John C. McCarthy has been named to head a new Office of Rural Development Policy, reporting directly to the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development. Secretary Block in making the announcement stated that the new office is to seek a "practical strategy for responding to the diverse problems and opportunities in rural America." The Secretary said he hopes to ensure better integration of agricultural concerns and rural development, citing his mandate under the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980 to provide leadership and coordination for national rural development efforts.



ANSON R. BERTRAND
Director
Science and Education

